

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1156

To provide for greater equity in the allocation by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of amounts appropriated for medical care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the next two fiscal years and for other purposes related to the needs of veterans medical care.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 1997

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN (for himself, Mr. PAXON, Ms. MOLINARI, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. SOLOMON, Mr. QUINN, Mrs. ROUKEMA, and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To provide for greater equity in the allocation by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of amounts appropriated for medical care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the next two fiscal years and for other purposes related to the needs of veterans medical care.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF MEDICAL CARE**
2 **APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF**
3 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) ALLOCATION SPECIFICATION.—The Secretary of
5 Veterans Affairs shall allocate amounts appropriated to
6 the Secretary for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for medical
7 care so that the amount allocated for medical care to each
8 of the administrative elements of the Department of Vet-
9 erans Affairs specified in subsection (b) is not less than
10 the amount allocated to that element for medical care
11 from amounts appropriated for fiscal year 1996.

12 (b) AFFECTED ENTITIES.—Subsection (a) applies
13 with respect to each administrative element of the Depart-
14 ment of Veterans Affairs designated as Veterans Inte-
15 grated Service Network to which there would be allocated
16 an amount for medical care for fiscal year 1998 or fiscal
17 year 1999 that is less than the amount allocated for that
18 element for fiscal year 1996 under the funding distribu-
19 tion methodology for the Department of Veterans Affairs
20 health care budget known as the Veterans Equitable Re-
21 source Allocation system, developed by the Secretary of
22 Veterans Affairs pursuant to the requirements of section
23 429 of Public Law 104–204 (110 Stat. 2929) and submit-
24 ted to Congress in March 1997.

25 (c) EXCEPTION FOR ACTUAL CUT IN FUNDING.—If
26 the amount appropriated for a fiscal year covered by sub-

1 section (a) for the Department of Veterans Affairs for
2 medical care is less than the amount appropriated for that
3 purpose for fiscal year 1996, the amount of the limitation
4 under subsection (a) for that fiscal year for each adminis-
5 trative element specified in subsection (b) may be reduced
6 by the percentage by which the amount appropriated for
7 that fiscal year is less than the amount appropriated for
8 fiscal year 1996.

9 (d) REVISED FUNDING SCHEDULE.—(1) Chapter 73
10 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting
11 after section 7306 the following new section:

12 **“§ 7307. Allocation of medical care appropriations**

13 “The Secretary shall ensure that, effective with fiscal
14 year 2000, each administrative element of the Department
15 of Veterans Affairs designated as Veterans Integrated
16 Service Network shall be allocated an amount for medical
17 care for any fiscal year from the total amount appro-
18 priated to the Secretary for that fiscal year for medical
19 care that is not less than 90 percent of the product of
20 (1) the number of veterans residing in the geographic area
21 of that service network, and (2) the national medical serv-
22 ices and administrative cost per veteran (determined by
23 dividing the total amount appropriated for the Secretary
24 for medical services and administrative costs for that fiscal

1 year by the total number of veterans residing in the Unit-
2 ed States).”.

3 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of such
4 chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating
5 to section 7306 the following new item:

“7307. Allocation of medical care appropriations.”.

○